

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 387

Introduced by Assembly Member Levine

February 15, 2013

An act to add Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 89225) to Chapter 2 of Part 55 of Division 8 of Title 3 of the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 387, as introduced, Levine. Public postsecondary education: California State University: online education.

Existing law establishes the California State University, under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law specifies that 25 institutions of higher education comprise the California State University.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature that the California State University have a uniform definition of online education for the purposes of measuring its effectiveness. The bill would require the trustees to establish a series of uniform definitions for online education on or before January 1, 2015, as specified. The bill would require each campus of the California State University to incorporate a common course numbering system for courses offered entirely online. The bill would require the trustees to report performance data about online education to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2015, and every two years until 2019. The bill would require, in the development of new programs of instruction at each campus of the California State University, that not less than 10% of new course offerings be online courses, as defined.

This bill would require the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges and the Trustees of the California State University to jointly report to the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2015, on the feasibility of developing an accelerated bachelor's degree completion program consisting of distance learning courses, aimed at students who started college but never obtained a degree.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that the
2 expansion of online education can increase accessibility, and
3 accelerate degree completion. However, the value and effectiveness
4 of new online education programs should properly be measured,
5 and the Legislature should be provided with data to understand
6 the effectiveness of online education.

7 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that the California State
8 University develop a uniform definition of online education for
9 the purposes of measuring its effectiveness.

10 SEC. 2. Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 89225) is added
11 to Chapter 2 of Part 55 of Division 8 of Title 3 of the Education
12 Code, to read:

13
14 Article 3.5. Online Education
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16 89225. (a) On or before January 1, 2015, for the purposes of
17 measuring the effectiveness of online education, the trustees shall
18 establish a series of uniform definitions for online education. The
19 trustees shall develop a systemwide definition for online education
20 that shall apply to a course that can be entirely completed remotely,
21 either through online access or other media of distance education,
22 and that does not require the student to be physically present at
23 the campus of instruction.

24 (b) The trustees shall develop a two-tiered definition for courses
25 that can be accessed remotely, through online or other media of
26 distance education, but cannot be completed entirely through
27 remote access, in accordance with both of the following:

28 (1) A tier 1 course shall be defined as a course for which not
29 less than 50 percent of instruction is taught remotely and requires

1 online access or other media of distance education for completion
2 of the course, but cannot be completed 100 percent remotely.

3 (2) A tier 2 course shall be defined as a course that require online
4 access or other media of distance education to a lesser degree than
5 Tier 1.

6 89225.5. Each campus of the California State University shall
7 incorporate a common course numbering system for courses offered
8 entirely online as referenced in Section 89225.

9 89226. (a) On or before January 1, 2015, and on or before
10 January 1 every two years thereafter, the trustees shall report to
11 the Legislature key performance data on online courses as defined
12 in Section 89225, including, but not necessarily limited to, all of
13 the following:

14 (1) The number of students enrolled at each campus.

15 (2) Course completion rates.

16 (3) Program completion rates for degree programs that include
17 distance learning courses.

18 (4) Systemwide grade point average for students enrolled in
19 online courses.

20 (5) The number of students cross-enrolled in online courses at
21 a California State University campus other than the campus at
22 which they are matriculated.

23 (6) Course completion rates for students enrolled in online
24 courses.

25 (7) Program completion rates for students enrolled in online
26 courses.

27 (b) Student enrollment and completion rate data included in a
28 report to be submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be made
29 available by demographics, including age, gender, and ethnicity.

30 (c) (1) The requirement for submitting a report imposed under
31 subdivision (a) is inoperative on July 1, 2019, pursuant to Section
32 10231.5 of the Government Code.

33 (2) The report prepared pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be
34 submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
35 Code.

36 89226.5. In the development of new programs of instruction
37 at each campus of the California State University, not less than 10
38 percent of new course offerings shall be online courses as defined
39 in Section 89225.

1 SEC. 3. On or before January 1, 2015, the Board of Governors
2 of the California Community Colleges and the Trustees of the
3 California State University shall jointly report to the Legislature
4 on the feasibility of developing an accelerated bachelor's degree
5 completion program consisting of distance learning courses, aimed
6 at students who started college but never obtained a degree. The
7 report prepared pursuant to this section shall be submitted in
8 compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

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